

what a WEEK!

Biblical Evidences for a
Literal Reading of Genesis 1

(Part II)



"For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy."
— Exodus 20:11 (NASB95)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh
April 14th, AD 2024

THE LORD'S DAY

The Fourteenth Day of April, *in the Year of our Lord 2024*

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



Sunday School—9:30 AM.

We continue our exciting and illuminating studies in Church History—a too often neglected topic!

Morning Worship—9:30 AM.

Call to Worship:^{*} “*Our Great Savior*” (#1; Chorus ONLY).

Invocation.*

Hymn: “*Joyful, Joyful we Adore Thee*” (# 29).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: *Genesis 1:1-5.*

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: “*Blessed be the Name*” (#22).

Announcemnts.

Hymn: “*God is so Good*” (#433).

Dismissal of Youth for Children’s Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: “*SIX DAYS.*”

Closing Hymn:^{*} “*Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow*” (#554).

Benediction.*



*The Congregation will please arise, if able.



Week of April 7 – April 13

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—I6

Midweek—4; Offering—4/7: \$582.⁰⁰; 3/31: \$766.⁰⁰

Update on Baby Gus (4/10/24)

Gus did well today. He was in the cath lab for 5-6 hours total. His team was patient and persistent. Despite not getting the access they wanted, they got a lot done. They couldn't get the biopsy due to maneuvering risks (risks we are glad they did not take), but set themselves up to (hopefully) get it next time.

Gus came back to the room and was quickly extubated again because he was doing so well. For all this we are thankful. His nurses did so much (and are doing so much even tonight) to see him through a long day. So appreciative!

The nephrology team consulted with us today and as we understand it, they still believe Gus is within a narrow window where some degree of recovery is possible. His kidneys are functioning at about 10% right now, so it's certainly not good. They want to continue to give the kidneys the ideal environment in which to recover and monitor their progress.

Tomorrow we will hold the peritoneal dialysis and add diuretics to see if his kidneys respond with greater urine output. Later next week we will do more advanced imaging. In all, there are a lot of ways this could go. For now, we wait and pray while his team monitors and troubleshoots.

Our church family took time to pray for us this evening, and we were greatly encouraged. Thanks to all who continue to pray for us.—Mark

AFRICA UPDATE: March 19, 2024 (Pastor Keith Merriman)

Dear beloved brethren,

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ. Last week I had the privilege of meeting with the CGBCI College of Pastors at Mishawaka GBC. I met with the Foreign Mission Panel and gave my report of our trip to Africa. I also made a request that the panel endorse a plan to purchase a retirement home in Yaounde for pastor Salomon and Mary Zambo.

Salomon began his church planting ministry with the CGBCI in 1999. He has been a faithful church planter for 25 years. We do not have a retirement plan for our missionaries in Africa. It has been traditionally expected that the children would care for their parents when they are older. We do not know how much longer pastor Salomon will be able to continue his ministry. He does not have any plans to retire soon but Pastor Salomon is now 50 years old. (Average age of African male at death is 56!) He and Mary have always lived in a rented home. They have never had a place to call their own. We are currently renting a 3 bedroom 2 bath

house in Yaounde for about \$3000 a year. Living in the capital city of Cameroon is very expensive but Salomon has had a very impactful ministry there. He would like to retire in the city near the Mfomakap church where he is pastoring and also where he has his practorium ministry.

After investigating many homes in the area it seems that it will cost about \$75,000 to purchase a home, pay for the government paperwork and move Salomon and Mary. I have asked brother Joseph Ela (president of CGBCI churches in Cameroon and CFO of Cameroon Biblical Seminary (Grace Brethren seminary in Mfomakap) if he would take on the responsibility of finding a suitable home. Joseph has an engineering degree and has a lot of experience with buildings on campus. He and his wife Dr. Sylviane Ela (medical doctor at clinic on campus) have been looking with Salomon and Mary for homes in the area. These homes have city water and electricity and have a security wall around the home (an important safety measure in a city of more than 4 million). Property in Yaounde sells by the square meter! (Just to drill a well can cost \$20,000 - \$30,000)

The retirement home would be our fellowships gift to Salomon and Mary for their many years of ministry. We would not have any other financial obligation to them once pastor Salomon has retired. It would be the responsibility of his children to care for their parents when he retires. (just a note- we built a house for pastor Raymond Olinga many years ago (handicap accessible), one of the families in the CGBCI built a house for pastor Simon Peter Otudo and his family some years ago and Pastor Gilbert Amaswache also has his own home, it is only pastor Salomon and Pastor Roger who do not have their own homes)

The FMP members unanimously agreed to endorse this project. If you would like to give toward purchasing a home for Salomon and Mary please send your offering to pastor Tom Johnson (who is the treasurer for the FMP) and mark it "**Zambo home**". If there are any questions you would like to ask please do not hesitate to call me at 419-307-3806 or e-mail me. As always thanks for your continuing prayers and gifts for the ministry in Africa.

*Support should be sent to: CGBCI Foreign Missions, c/o Pastor Tom Johnson;
222 Marker Drive, Somerset, PA, 15501*